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**Date:** 8/4/2017

**GAIN Report Number:** RO1715

## Romania

**Post:** Bucharest

### African Swine Fever Detected in Romania

**Report Categories:**

Livestock and Products

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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**Report Highlights:**

On July 31, 2017, Romania's Veterinary Authority confirmed the first detection of African Swine Fever (ASF) in a backyard herd of domestic pigs. Upon laboratory confirmation, the Romanian Veterinary Authority applied disease control measures. Although wild boars have been linked as a primary vector of the disease in the region, Romania's Veterinary Authority suspects that contaminated Ukrainian products are the likely source of the Romanian detection.

**General Information:**

On July 31, 2017, Romania's Institute for Diagnosis and Animal Health confirmed the first detection of African swine fever (ASF) in a backyard holding located in north-western Romania near Satu-Mare town. The location is only several kilometers from the border with both Hungary and Ukraine. Seven pigs were confirmed to be affected, including a principal detection site and also at another secondary contact farm.

Based on Romanian regulations, the Romanian Veterinary Authority took the following immediate actions:

- Collected samples for laboratory analysis,
- Restricted movements restrictions on any infected holdings,
- Culled infected animals and incinerated the remains,
- Disinfected the pig barns, alleys, fenced perimeters, feeders, and any other potentially contaminated objects in the holding areas,
- Surveyed all swine herd located within proximity of the detection site, and
- Established protection and surveillance in the vicinity around the detection site.

The primary vector of the disease in the region has been wild boars, whose cross-border movements are difficult to control. However, according to Romanian officials, preliminary investigations conducted by the Romanian Veterinary Authority suggest that contaminated animal products from Ukraine are the likely source of ASF in Romania. Romania's epidemiological investigation remains underway.

Because ASF is present in Ukraine and Moldova, the Romanian Veterinary Authority enforced strict mitigation and quarantine measures to prevent the disease from spreading into Romania. Additionally in November 2016, the Government of Romania approved its National Surveillance Program and the Contingency Plan for ASF under the framework of Government Decision 830/2016. This first ASF detection has also prompted the Romanian Swine Producers Association to request the Romanian Government to approve emergency measures under a draft ASF-related regulation. This draft regulation would authorize the Romanian Government to take additional action, as well as provide additional funds if the virus spreads. Romania is considering additional steps based on the experiences of neighboring countries, which have incurred considerable costs associated with incineration and disinfection efforts.

The European Commission is expected to take steps regarding detection sites, which Romania would implement. Export restrictions on live pigs and pork meat products are expected to be limited. To date, only Russia has imposed ASF-based restrictions on live pigs and swine breeding product imports from Romania.

Previous GAIN report on Livestock sector:

[Romania Livestock Annual Report 2016](#)

